

McCoy House  
1.5 m. W of U. S. Rt. 13 at  
St. Georges on Kirkwood Road  
Kirkwood vicinity  
New Castle County  
Delaware

HABS No. DE-191

HABS  
DEL,  
2-KIRWOOD,  
1-

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D. C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

MCCOY HOUSE

HABS No. DE-191

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DEL,  
2-KIRWOOD.V,  
1-

Location: 1.5 miles west of U.S. 13 at St. Georges on  
Kirkwood Road (Del. Rt. 409), Kirkwood Vicinity,  
New Castle County, Delaware.

Present Owner: Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Mazik  
Box 391 R.D. 1  
Bear, Delaware 19701.

Present Occupant: AuClair School & owners.

Present Use. School for autistic children and private  
residence.

PART I. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural Merit and Interest: This is a good example of arts and crafts design.
2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: This L-shaped house is approximately 90 feet across the front by 42 feet wide with an L-wing on the east of approximately 45 feet in length by 30 feet in width. There are three stories and a cellar.
2. Foundation: Concrete.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: Brownish-yellow Roman brick with magnesium flecks, running bond; four rows red brick with header course at bottom between foundation and Roman brick. Gable ends have shingles above the eave line, painted cream.
4. Structural system, framing: Brick load-bearing walls with wooden roof and floor structure. There are large struts at each rafter extending in a V-shape to a large center-beam ceiling joist for added support to the roof.
5. Porches, stoops, bulkheads, etc.: There is a porch extending across the entire front of the house and extending around the length of the house on the east. The pent roof is supported by large brick pedestals, with rounded corners, and two round wood columns above the pedestals. There are simple capitals at the top.

6. Chimneys: There are five brick chimneys, with rounded corners, through the roof; one on the east gable end, two on the west end, one on the front gable, and one about one-third the way from end on the south wing.
7. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: The main entrance near the center of the north facade has recesses wood-panel jambs with a stone sill. There is a large stone lintel with a pair of narrow wood panel doors. There is a door on the south facade and the west and east facades of the L-wing; all are Dutch doors with diamond-light glass panels at the top and cross-wood panels below. Simple wood surrounds are on the openings. There is a wood panel door at each fire escape opening on the second and third floor.
  - b. Windows and shutters: Very large one-over-one, double-hung, wood sash windows are on the first floor. Smaller, one-over-one, double-hung wood sashes are on the second and third floor. All windows have simple wood trim and aluminum storm sashes. Windows on the first and second floors have stone sills and lintels.
8. Roof:
  - a. Shape, covering: A very steep gable with intersecting gable on the front roof has Belgian tile, glazed brownochre, covering with glazed ridge caps and a small finial in the form of a tulip. Roof tiles have glazed end caps.
  - b. Cornice, eaves: Eaves are open and there is a simple barge board on gables. There are copper gutters and downspouts.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:
  - a. Basement: There is a cellar with concrete floor consisting of four rooms used for mechanical equipment and storage.
  - b. First floor: The entrance near the center of the north facade leads to a small vestibule. Through a double opening is the reception room which has the central stairway to the south side of the room.

On the north wall is a fireplace to the right of the entrance, and a window. There is a window on the south and a door leading to a small room behind the stairway. To the

right side of the reception room through a large double opening is the parlor. There are three windows on the north wall and a window on each side of the fireplace on the west wall. Behind the parlor to the south, opening from the reception room, is the library. The library has a fireplace on the west wall with a window on each side and three windows on the south wall.

On the left side of the reception hall through a large double opening is the dining room. There is a fireplace, with a window on each side on the east wall and three windows across the front on the north. The south wall has a door to a hallway on the right and to the trophy room on the left. The trophy room leads into the hallway. There is a stairway to the cellar in the hallway on the left side and a bath on the right. It has an exterior door with a window on each side on the east wall, and two windows on the west wall. There is a fake fireplace in the northeast corner. To the southwest is a door to the back stairway and the kitchen. The kitchen has a window and exterior door on the west wall and two windows on the south.

- c. Second floor: The second floor plan is similar to the first floor. A balcony is in the center around the stairway with four windows on the south wall. To the west side of the balcony are two bedrooms connected by a bath. There is a fireplace with a window on each side on the west wall in each bedroom. One window in the northwest bedroom has been made into a door leading to the fire escape. There are two windows in each bedroom on the north and south walls respectively. To the center of the balcony-hall is a small nursery with one window and a connecting bath to another bedroom. The two bedrooms on the east side of the balcony are similar but do not have fireplaces. The right bedroom has a door on the south leading down a hall to the laundry room and another bedroom. The rear stair leads up to a small hall and to the third floor. There is a bedroom over the kitchen.
  - d. Third floor: The third floor maybe reached both by the rear stair and from the main stairway. The main stairway is now closed-in at the third floor, but was formerly open to the first floor, forming a balcony-hall. There are four bedrooms and a bath on the third floor.
  - e. Attic: There is an unfinished attic space above the third floor.
2. Stairways: The main stairway is an open-well, closed-string to

the third floor. The soffit of the third flight is wood paneled. A molded handrail leads from a large newel with an ornate brass light on top of a column supporting the upper floor, and forming a landing. The back wall of the stairway is wood paneled. The handrail continues up from a newel at the landing to the second floor and around the balcony. There is a newel at each corner with brass ornament on top on each floor. Spindle balusters form balustrade. Risers and treads are finished natural, accenting all the grains of wood. There are two large columns at the first and second floor ends of the stairs on the north side. Columns on the first floor are laminated burlwood columns supporting a wood latic frieze bond. The columns on the second floor are painted white with gold capitals. The rear stairway is enclosed with a simple wood handrail.

3. Flooring: There is flagstone flooring in the vestibule, trophy room, bath and hall from dining room, family dining room and kitchen. There are narrow board wood floors in the rooms on the first floor. Flooring on the second and third floors is wood.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Walls in the reception room are burlwood paneling, and ceiling is plaster with plaster trim. The ceiling above the stair well at the third level is a high coffer with glazed white tile. The tile has inset gold tiles forming a large figure and medallions. The walls in the dining room and library are panelled wood. There is an exposed beam wood ceiling. Rough wood plank walls are in the trophy room and kitchen. Wooden wainscot is in the family dining room. The parlor has plaster wall and ceiling with cornice molding and ceiling panel trim forming medallions in the corners and a large medallion in the center. The walls and ceilings on the second and third floor are painted plaster walls. Glazed tile walls are in the second floor bath.
5. Doorways and doors: The large double sliding doors to the parlor and dining room have heavy wood surrounds with railed shelves at the head on each side. There is pilaster trim around the doors. Other doors on the first floor are wood panel with wood trim. There is a stained glass panel door in the reception room. Doors on the second floor are wood panel, and have wood surrounds with bulls-eye corner blocks. Third floor doors are wood panel with wood trim.
6. Special decorative features, trim and cabinet work: There is a large projecting brick fireplace in the reception room with corbeled brick sloping up to the ceiling, with an ornate cast stone cornice at the ceiling. There is an inset mirror above the cast stone mantel. The mantel is below and between the caps.

of two brick pilasters on the corners. There is a flat arch of soldier bricks above the opening. Ornamental cast stone molding is underneath the mantel and pilaster capitals, and above the mirror. The hearth is decorative glazed tile and brick extending around each side of the brick pilasters to the wall. The fireplace in the dining room is brick with a round arch opening, glazed tile hearth and a stone mantel across the width of the brick surround with a decorative molding under the mantel. A beveled mirror is set in the wood panel above the mantel. There is a false fireplace in the dining room, of brick with a brick hearth, a large timber mantel and a metal crane. A fireplace in the parlor has a white glazed-tile surround and hearth with two small columns each side supporting an upper mantel. There is a large mirror in the center and a smaller mirror on each side. The library fireplace is brick with a red marble mantel and red and black glazed-tile hearth. There is a projecting flat arch opening with a ledge above and rounded sides at the front of the opening. There are two steps on each side in the firebox. A fireplace in the master bedroom on the second floor has a glazed, green tile surround, and hearth with a wood surround and a mantel and beveled mirror above. The bedroom to the northwest corner of second floor has glazed pink tile surround and hearth with a wood surround and mantel and a beveled mirror above. There are pendants on the newels at the third floor that extend down on the ceiling below.

7. Hardware: There is brass decorative hardware on the doors in the principle front rooms on the first floor.
8. Mechanical equipment:
  - a. Heating: The rooms are steam heated, with radiators in each in addition to the fireplaces.
  - b. Plumbing: There is a marble lavatory with marble backsplash and metal legs ending with claw feet. Other plumbing fixtures are modern.
  - c. Lighting: There is a large crystal chandelier in the reception room and a hanging fixture in the stairwell. There are large chandeliers hanging in the parlor, dining room and library. Two tiffany-style lamps hang in the family dining room. The brass ornament on the newel at the first floor is a light fixture. Other fixtures are modern. There are very ornate, gold-colored cover plates on electrical outlets and switches in the parlor.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The house faces north about 100 yards from Kirkwood Road. Lands surrounding the house are cultivated, with no near-by houses. There is a gravel road leading to the house from Kirkwood Road on the north and McCoy Road on the east.
2. Landscape: There is a biomorphic swimming pool in the rear yard. Concrete block, plastered with wood copings, form built-up planters at the rear of the house and the northeast side. A flagstone walk leads to the side door on the east. There are several large trees.
3. Outbuildings: There is a modern stable and corral to the east of the house and a modern school building to the south. Both have a wood shingled gable roof and wood shingle walls.

Prepared by: John P. White  
Project Supervisor  
August 1975

#### PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey in cooperation with the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, State of Delaware and was financed with funds provided by the State of Delaware. Under the direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS, the project was completed during the summer of 1975 at the Historic American Buildings Survey Field Office, Dover, Delaware by John P. White (Assistant Professor, Texas Tech University), Project Supervisor; James Stewart (University of Delaware), Sally Schwartz (Harvard University), Joan M. Norton (Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs), Project Historian; Charles B. Tonetti (Syracuse University) Architect; Student Architects, Scott Barnard (University of Pennsylvania), Frederick K. Read (University of Notre Dame) and Mark T. Wellen (Texas Tech University).